Message Text

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62.

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P 132141Z JUN 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIS XP JA SUBJECT: JAPANESE VIOLATION OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON UNDERSTANDING

- 1. DEPT CALLED IN JAPANESE EMBOFF ON JUNE 12 AND PRESENTED TALKING PAPER REPEATED BELOW. DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE SCHONING REVIEWED WITH EMBOFF BACK-GROUND CONCERNING VOLUNTARY UNDERTAKING OF THE JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY. HE STRESSED THE CRISIS STATE OF THE BRISTOL BAY SALMON, THE EXTENSIVE RESTRICTIONS BEING PLACED ON ALASKAN FISHERMEN AND THE RESULTANT HARDSHIPS, THE INADEQUACY IN THE US VIEW OF THE JAPANESE INDUSTRY UNDERTAKING EVEN IF OBSERVED, AND THE PROBLEMS THIS VIOLATION POSES FOR MAINTAINING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE UNDERTAKING. DEPTOFF AND SCHONING EMPHASIZED THAT INCIDENT MAKES CREDIBILITY OF INDUSTRY HIGHLY SUSPECT. EMBOFF PROMISED TO TRANSMIT TO TOKYO IMMEDIATELY.
- 2. TEXT OF TALKING PAPER: QTE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONFIDENTIAL

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DESIRES TO DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN

TO A VIOLATION BY JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS OF THE VOLUNTARY UNDERTAKING BY THE JAPANESE SALMON INDUSTRY OF MEASURES TO PRESERVE BRISTOL BAY SALMON AS STATED IN A TALKING PAPER PRESENTED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL BY AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA ON MAY 14.

ON JUNE 8, 1974, A U.S. COAST GUARD AIRCRAFT OBSERVED EIGHT JAPANESE SALMON GILLNET VESSELS FISHING WITHIN THE AREA IN WHICH SUCH VESSELS WERE TO REFRAIN FROM FISHING DURING THE PERIOD MAY 15 - JUNE 20. THE EIGHT VESSELS OBSERVED FISHING IN VIOLATION, RANGING FROM 5 TO 28 MILES SOUTH OF 56 DEGREES NORTH, WERE: HK2-11371; HK2-12000; HK2-13502; HK2-13547; HK2-13577; HK2-13567; HK2-13864; AND HK2-13940. TWO ADDITIONAL VESSELS, HK2-13696 AND HK2-13951, WERE OBSERVED UNDERWAY IN THE PROHIBITED AREA, BUT NOT FISHING. THE JAPANESE FISHERIES AGENCY PATROL VESSEL TOYO MARU WAS NOTIFIED BY THE COAST GUARD OF THE OBSERVED VIOLATION.

ON JUNE 9, A COAST GUARD VESSEL CONDUCTED A COURTESY BOARDING OF THE SALMON MOTHERSHIP JINYO MARU AND DISCUSSED THE INCIDENT. THE FLEET COMMANDER STATED THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE TERMS OF THE VOLUNTARY UNDERTAKING CONCERNING THE PROHIBITED AREA.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT VIEWS WITH GREAT CONCERN THE FAILURE OF THE JAPANESE SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF ITS VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION MEASURES TO PROTECT THE SERIOUSLY DEPLETED BRISTOL BAY SALMON. THE OBSERVATION OF THE VIOLATION BY THE SECOND UNITED STATES SURVEILLANCE FLIGHT RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO THE INTENT OF THE JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY TO ADHERE TO THE MEASURES WHICH THEY PROFESS TO HAVE ADOPTED.

THE VIOLATION OF THE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION MEASURES, WHICH ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN HAD BEEN SOUGHT BY THE UNITED STATES, IS VIEWED AS SERIOUSLY DETRACTING FROM THE CREDIBILITY OF THE JAPANESE SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY. END QTE.

3. FOR TOKYO: MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO APPROPRIATE GOJ CONFIDENTIAL.

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OFFICIALS. FOR OTTAWA: INFORM FISHERIES AND MARINE SERVICE OF REPRESENTATION AND DELIVER COPY OF TALKING PAPER. SISCO

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